(b) Temporary restoration work in Mahesh Kunt-Mansi section of NH-31 has already been taken up by the Road Construction Department, Bihar. The restoration work in Saharsa-Maheshkunt section of NH-107 would be possible after floodwater recedes.

Upgradation of Highways in Rajasthan

†2509. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has sent letters to him on 19th March, 2004 and 16th April, 2004 to declare parts of sixteen Highways as Highways;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard and whether any time limit has been set in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIY.APPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Recently, in February 2004, the Ministry has declared 7457 kms. of State Roads including 988 kms. in Rajasthan as National Highways. Due to paucity of funds, the Central Government is now not in a position to declare State Roads as National Highways.

National Highways passing through Rajasthan

†2510. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals regarding strengthening and widening of National Highways passing through the State of Rajasthan have been forwarded by the State Government of Rajasthan to Government of India;

(b) whether Government have formulated any scheme in this regard;

(c) if so, the outline and time limit thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.